



**Date:** January 27, 2021  
**To:** Full Authority Board  
**From:** Alan Revill, Chair

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**1.0 Type of Report**

Consent Item   
Item for Board Consideration

**2.0 Topic**

Remarks from Past Chair

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**3.0 Recommendations**

That Report IR-001-21, Remarks from Past Chair, **Be Received**

	Attached
1.	<a href="#">Remarks from past chair</a>

Respectfully submitted,

*(original signed by)*

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Alan Revill, Chair

## Remarks from Past Chair

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The year 2020 has provided unprecedented challenges for our General Manager, our staff team and the Board to respond to the initiatives of the Province and the effects of COVID-19.

We started the year with consultations between the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks and Conservation Authorities (CA) so that the Ministry could hear from community groups in preparation for changes to the Conservation Authorities Act (CA Act). After being delayed several months, the latest provincial initiative came through omnibus budget Bill 229, which included further amendments to the CA Act legislation primarily regarding governance and development review. These provincial moves have dramatically increased the uncertainty that CA's face and have left our staff feeling very unsettled about what lies ahead.

At the same time, the effects of COVID-19 have had significant impacts for our staff and how we have been able to manage our business. It has often meant staff working from home and adjusting for child care and isolation from colleagues and families. It was tremendously disappointing to have to cancel most of Maple Madness and with an abundance of caution, we cancelled all of our outdoor programming and closed Conservation Area for a period of two weeks. Throughout the year, staff have adjusted facility use and programming as changes from local public health units have occurred. There have been some job protected leaves where revenue and work declines could not support continuing programs. Other permitted activities have seen significant increases as folks repair and build in areas that require conservation oversight.

Throughout these tumultuous times, our senior staff team have successfully navigated through what seems like almost weekly adjustments. These impacts have been felt at the Board level as well, with most meetings of the Board and many committees needing to consider significant changes to help the organization adapt. My thanks to each of you for your continuing commitment to Cataraqui Conservation and the support to our staff.

In the next while, the Board will be asked to decide on the future of the Administration Office at Little Cataraqui Creek and consider next steps for the Conservation Authority upon the release of draft regulations from the province. Year 2021 will continue to offer challenges as we move forward, but with continuing communication with the Board and municipal partners, we will be able to adapt.

In this year of challenges, I am grateful for the support that you have given me and our staff to see us through.

Alan Revill, CRCA Chair 2020